

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Bolivia Approves the Use of Intacta Soybean

Country: Bolivia

Post: Lima

Report Category: Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies, Biotechnology and Other New Production Technologies Addendum, Biotechnology - Plants and Animals, Cloning

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Report Highlights:

Bolivia announced on October 19 the approval of Intacta, a new biotech soybean variety with insect resistant Bt and glyphosate resistant traits. Intense drought and more unpredictable weather are disrupting Bolivian farmer livelihoods and they see the Intacta approval as one helpful step towards improved crop productivity and environmental resilience.

Bolivia announced on October 19 the approval of a new biotech soybean variety, Intacta (MON87701 x MON89788). The announcement was made by the Minister of Environment and Water, Alan Lisperguer, before delivering the official resolution to representatives at the National Summit on Land and Territory, Production, and Environment, held in San Julián, Santa Cruz.

The timing of this authorization allows for the new soybean variety to be planted next season across several key soybean-producing municipalities in Santa Cruz, including Cuatro Cañadas, San Julián, San Pedro, Colonia Piraí, Warnes, Lagunillas, Gutiérrez, Ramírez, Bailón, and San José de Chiquitos. Minister Lisperguer emphasized that the approval would help small producers mitigate the impacts of the climate crisis.

The “Dialogue for the Economy and Production” led by President Luis Arce, with participation from leading business representatives and the agricultural sector, likely influenced this regulatory decision. Bolivian farmers, particularly those represented by the Association of Oilseed and Wheat Producers (ANAPO), have longstanding requests for the GoB to approve new biotech crops, while accelerating the approval process for HB4 soybeans, HB4 wheat, and Bt corn.

ANAPO argues that the approval of Intacta soybeans, already grown in neighboring Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries, will increase productivity and crop resilience generating additional exports worth an estimated \$3.5 billion—roughly equivalent to Bolivia’s natural gas exports. Bolivia is currently facing a severe dollar shortage and soybean exports are a critical source of foreign exchange.

A longstanding drought and a limited supply of imported diesel fuel for farm equipment contributed to a 30 percent drop in soybean production, according to ANAPO. Santa Cruz, which accounts for 97 percent of Bolivia’s soybean production and nearly half of its corn, is experiencing the worst drought in 30 years that devastated both the summer and winter growing cycles.

ANAPO projects that the approval of a biotech derived corn with glyphosate resistant and insect resistant Bt traits could yield significant benefits for Bolivia, potentially shifting the country from a net importer to a net exporter of corn, harvesting an estimated surplus of 1.3 million tons with exports potentially adding over \$1.2 billion in foreign exchange.

Attachments:

No Attachments.